



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/526,427	10/21/2005	Kenya Takagawa	81864.0053	3085
26021	7590	09/06/2007		
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P. 1999 AVENUE OF THE STARS SUITE 1400 LOS ANGELES, CA 90067			EXAMINER HEVEY, JOHN A	
			ART UNIT 1709	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 09/06/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/526,427

Applicant(s)

TAKAGAWA ET AL.

Examiner

John A. Hevey

Art Unit

1709

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Election/Restrictions*

1. Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 1, 5, and 7-16, drawn to a ferrite material comprising as main constituents  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{ZnO}$ ,  $\text{NiO}$  and  $\text{MnO}$ .

Group II, claim(s) 2-3, 5, and 7-16, drawn to a ferrite material comprising as main constituents  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{ZnO}$ ,  $\text{LiO}$  and  $\text{MnO}$ .

Group III, claim(s) 4, 5, and 7-16, drawn to a ferrite material comprising as main constituents  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{ZnO}$ ,  $\text{LiO}$ ,  $\text{NiO}$  and  $\text{MnO}$ .

Group IV, claim(s) 6-16, drawn to a ferrite material comprising as main constituents  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{ZnO}$ , and  $\text{MnO}$ , and as additives,  $\text{Si}$  and  $\text{Ca}$ .

2. The inventions listed as Groups I-IV do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: Groups I-IV share a common technical feature wherein each group relates to a ferrite material comprising as main constituents  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{ZnO}$ , and  $\text{MnO}$ . This shared technical feature does not rise to the level of a special technical feature because ferrite materials with this composition

Art Unit: 1709

are known in the prior art, as taught by Uchikawa et al. (JP-2000-159523) who teaches a sintered ferrite material comprising  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{ZnO}$ , and  $\text{MnO}$  as main ingredients.

Therefore, the shared technical feature is not novel, and cannot be a special technical feature.

Furthermore, Groups I-II and III share the additional technical feature of  $\text{NiO}$  and  $\text{LiO}$  respectively. However, the use of compositions as required by Group I,  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{ZnO}$ ,  $\text{NiO}$ , and  $\text{MnO}$  are taught by Kono et al. (JP-11-003813), and the use of compositions as required by Group III,  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{ZnO}$ ,  $\text{LiO}$ ,  $\text{NiO}$ , and  $\text{MnO}$  are taught by Sano et al. (JP-56-005331). Therefore, these shared technical features are not novel and cannot be special technical features. For these reasons, Groups I-IV lack a shared special technical feature and therefore lack a single general inventive concept.

### ***Election of Species***

3. This application contains claims directed to more than one species of the generic invention. These species are deemed to lack unity of invention because they are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

The species are as follows:

“Second” additives (claim 8), “third” additives (claim 9), and “fourth” additives (claim 10).

Applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single species to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The reply must also identify the claims readable on the elected species, including any claims

Art Unit: 1709

subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered non-responsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

4. The claims are deemed to correspond to the species listed above in the following manner:

“Second” additives - claim 8

“Third” additives - claim 9

“Fourth” additives - claim 10

5. The species listed above do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, the species lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: the species listed above share a technical feature in that each is an additive to a ferrite material claimed by instant claim 1, 2, 4, or 6, with contents comprising 10000 ppm or less. However, each species is drawn to a single additive, as the respective claims are not dependent on each other, and furthermore each species consists of non-overlapping elements. Each species of the generic ‘additive’ do not share any special technical features as

Art Unit: 1709

each consists of elements with a wide range of disparate properties; therefore, the species do not relate to a single general inventive concept.

6. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To reserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the inventions or species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the inventions or species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C.103(a) of the other invention.

7. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

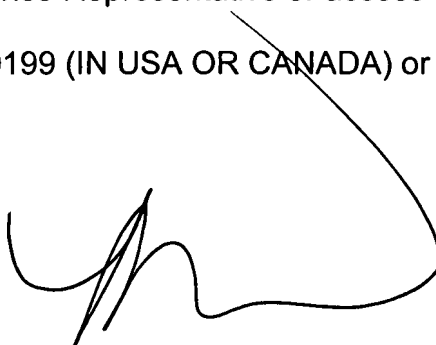
***Conclusion***

1. All claims are subject to election requirement.
2. Furthermore, an election of species requirement exists for each group subject to restriction.
3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John A. Hevey whose telephone number is 571-270-3594. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vickie Kim can be reached on 571-270-0579. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

jah

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive 'J' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.